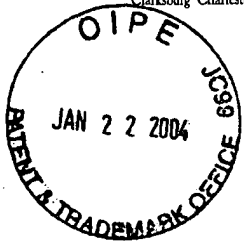


1-23-04



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Smithmt@StepToe-Johnson.com

January 22, 2004

***Mail Stop DD***

**"Express Mail" Mailing Label No.:ET697516140US**

**Date of Deposit: January 22, 2004**

Mail Stop DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ET 697516140 US

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application  
For: **Method and Apparatus for Keeping Warm  
While in a Tree Stand**  
Appl. No.: 10/691,683; Filed: October 23, 2003  
Inventor: William L. Lewis  
Ref No.: 521300/00001A

Dear Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate);
2. PTO 1449 (with 3 references);
3. One (1) return post card.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date and returned as soon as possible.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4295. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.



Commission for Patents  
January 22, 2004  
Page 2

PLEASE FORWARD ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE TO OUR CLARKSBURG  
ADDRESS: **Michael T. Smith, Esq., Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, P.O. Box 2190,  
Clarksburg, WV 26302-2190.**

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Smith", written in a cursive style.

Michael T. Smith  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 47,099

MTS/jbm  
enclosures  
cc: William L. Lewis  
File



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

William L. Lewis

Appl. No.: 10/691,683

Filed: October 23, 2003

For: **Method and Apparatus for  
Keeping Warm While in a Tree  
Stand**

Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 521300/00001A

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 are based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior

art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present patent application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will review art of record in all 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority documents.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$210.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.
- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

Applicant: William L. Lewis  
Appl. No.: To Be Assigned

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

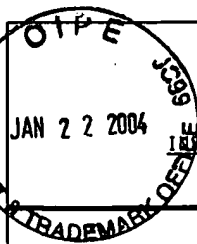
STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC



Michael T. Smith  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 47,099

Date: 1/22/04

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FORM PTO-1449

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.  
521300/00001AAPPLICATION NO.  
10/691,683APPLICANT  
William L. LewisFILING DATE  
October 23, 2003GROUP  
To be assigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AAI	US3,837,006	9/24/1974	Laseman	2	89	09/4/1973
	ABI	US4,507,805	4/2/1985	Calutoiu	2	69	12/15/1983
	ACI	US5,526,533	6/18/1996	Plemmons, Sr.	2	79	02/16/1994
	ADI						
	AEI						
	AFI						
	AGI						
	AHI						
	AII						
	AJI						
	AKI						
	ALI						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	ALI						
	AMI						Yes No
	ANI						Yes No
	AOI						Yes No
	API						Yes No

## OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR		
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.